PITTA

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SPECIAL ISSUE – SATTAL & MANDAL

Editor's note

Some of our members had been to Sattal & Mandal in Uttarakhand for a week-long birding trip from December 15th to 21st, 2019. In this Special Issue of the Pitta, we are happy to bring you an account of the trip, along with a number of colourful photographs. We hope you will find this Special Issue interesting.

A WEEK IN PARADISE
Report: Sattal & Mandal, December 15-21, 2019

Smita Chatterjee & Gurukumar KR

A view of snow-capped peaks at Chopta (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

The foothills of the Himalayas are a haven for the most colourful birds we see in India and many are endemic to this region. The planning for a trip to this wonderland of birds started a few months earlier, thanks to the organizers from Deccan Birders. Although the initial plan was to visit Munsiyari, heavy winter snowfall in the area prevented us from going there. Due to the efficient planning of the organizers we did not have to cancel the entire trip but went instead to Sattal, Mandal and Chopta areas of Uttarakhand. As the trip was a first time visit to the Himalayan region for many of us, we were fortunate to be part of a group which included some extremely knowledgeable birders. We started counting days as soon as we confirmed our participation.

The day came and we landed in Delhi. After a little confusion in finding other friends through Google Maps, 'few' phone calls, and last minute shopping by some of us, we all got together at the meeting point. We took a night bus from Delhi to Kathgodam. It was fun being among people like Lawrence sir, Geetanjali, Anita and others and the discussions during the journey were lively and comfortable. We reached Kathgodam in the morning and travelled by road for one and a half hours to Sattal in two vehicles. As we got down from our vehicles, we could see a lot of birds near our Hotel premises itself – Himalayan Bulbul (*Pycnonotus leucogenys*), Russet Sparrow (*Passer rutilans*), House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Oriental White-eye (*Zosterops palpebrosus*) and others.

Himalayan Bulbul
(Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Russet Sparrow (male)
(Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Russet Sparrow (female) (Photo: Umesh Mani)

The sight that greeted us the first morning was a magnificent sunrise right across our rooms. It was such a treat for the eyes and a reminder that the landscapes were as mesmerizing as the birds. Dheeraj got a Blue-fronted Redstart (*Pheonicurus frontalis*) nearby that whetted our appetites for more.

Blue-fronted Redstart (Photo: Dheeraj Chavadi)

Ashy Bulbul (Photo: Dheeraj Chavadi)

Black Bulbul (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Slaty-headed Parakeet (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

At around 6:00AM we eagerly started our first bird walk. Immediately after walking for some distance, we started spotting the birds – Black (*Hypsipetes leucocephalus*), Ashy (*Hemixos flavala*) and Himalayan Bulbuls, Slaty-headed Parakeet (*Psittacula himalayana*), Blue Whistling Thrush (*Myophonus caeruleus*), Velvet-fronted Nuthatch (*Sitta frontalis*), Bar-tailed Treecreeper (*Certhia himalayana*), Grey-hooded Warbler (*Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*), Black-throated Tit (*Aegithalos concinnus*), Lemon-rumped Warbler (*Phylloscopus chloronotus*) and Black-lored Tit (*Parus xanthogenys*).

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Bar-tailed Treecreeper (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Grey-hooded Warbler (Photo: Dheeraj Chavadi)

Black-lored Tit (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Black-throated Tit (Photo: Dheeraj Chavadi)

We, then, visited an interesting place known as the Studio. This was a location with a small stream of water flowing in to a small pond, along which a couple of bird perches and a few stones had been arranged. A lot of birds visited the stream for a sip of water and a quick bath. We got to see the Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher (*Ficedula strophiata*) here but nothing much else happened here on our first visit, as it was already a little late in the morning.

Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher (Photo: Smita Chatterjee)

Yellow-bellied Fantail (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

In the afternoon session we visited Chafi and Khasi Rivers. Here we got to see the Yellow-bellied Fantail (*Chelidorhynx hypoxantha*), White-capped (*Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*) and Plumbeous Water Redstarts (*Rhyacornis fuliginosa*), Slaty-backed Forktail (*Enicurus schistaceus*), Great Barbet (*Megalaima virens*), Crested Kingfisher (*Megaceryle lugubris*), Grey Treepie (*Dendrocitta formosae*), Streaked Laughingthrush (*Garrulax lineatus*), and the most interesting bird, the Brown Dipper (*Cinclus pallasii*). It was very cutely diving inside the water to look for food and coming back on to the rocks. I was seeing this unusual behaviour of a bird for the first time.

Brown Dipper (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

White-capped (L) & Plumbeous Water Redstart (R)
(Photo: Umesh Mani)

Crested Kingfisher (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

The next morning, we sat in a 'bird hide' for a couple of hours. A hide is a small enclosed space from where birders can sit and observe birds without disturbing them. It was made of some green net-like material. For the photographers, a narrow plank was made on which they could rest their cameras and capture images of the lovely birds from a very short distance. The birds were fed at a particular time by local caretakers. At the appointed time, once the food was placed, it was a riot of birds. Never had we seen so many birds in such colourful plumage, and from this short a distance.

White-crested Laughingthrush (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Grey-headed Woodpecker (Photo: Dheeraj Chavadi)

The birds we saw here were Grey-headed Woodpecker (*Picus canus*), Brown-fronted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos auriceps*), Greater Yellownape (*Picus flavinucha*), Kalij Pheasant (*Lophura leucomelanos*), Red Junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*), Common Green Magpie (*Cissa chinensis*), White-throated (*Garrulax albogularis*) and White-crested (*Garrulax leucolophus*) Laughingthrushes, a big flock of Oriental Turtle Doves (*Streptopelia orientalis*), Red-billed Blue Magpie (*Urocissa erythrorhyncha*) and Grey Treepie.

Greater Yellownape (Photo: Dheeraj Chavadi)

Common Green Magpie (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Red-billed Blue Magpie (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

The interesting thing to note here was that a few species came in big flocks, stayed there for some time and flew away as another species came in. We reluctantly left the place when our guide told us to wind up. The hide did help us see a lot of birds in a short time and photograph them from a very short distance. The experience was like a movie and suddenly it was all over.

From Sattal we started to Mandal. The journey took us nearly ten hours along winding roads through huge ice-capped mountains – it was so wonderful! *En route*, we saw a Wallcreeper (*Tichodroma muraria*) literally creeping on the steep valley walls.

Steppe Eagle (Photo: Smita Chatterjee)

Wallcreeper (Photo: Dheeraj Chavadi)

Himalayan Griffon
(Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Grey Bushchat (Photo: Smita Chatterjee)

Eurasian Jay (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Other birds we saw *en route* were Steppe Eagles (*Aquila nipalensis*), Himalayan Griffon (*Gyps himalayensis*), Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), Striated Prinia (*Prinia crinigera*), Grey Bushchat (*Saxicola ferreus*), Jungle Babblers (*Turdoides striata*), Grey Treepie, House Sparrow, Lesser Yellownape (*Picus chlorolophus*), Bay-backed Shrike (*Lanius vittatus*), Black-headed Jay (*Garrulus lanceolatus*), Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*), Rufous Sibia (*Malacias capistratus*), and others. As we started gaining altitude, the temperatures were plummeting. We reached Mandal, where we were to stay for the next four days. It is a small town and the place we stayed in was comfortable and cosy.

Black-headed Jay (Photo: Smita Chatterjee)

Rufous Sibia (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Next morning our birding started with a session at another hide. It was really cold and our fingers were numb. Taking pictures while wearing hand gloves was quite challenging, but that did not dampen our enthusiasm. Some of the species we saw were White-throated Laughingthrush, White-crested Laughingthrush, Brown-fronted Woodpecker, Himalayan Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos himalayensis*), Scaly-bellied Woodpecker (*Picus squamatus*), amongst others.

White-throated Laughingthrush (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Brown-fronted Woodpecker (Photo: Dheeraj Chavadi)

Himalayan Woodpecker (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Scaly-bellied Woodpecker (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush (Photo: Smita Chatterjee)

Grey Treepie (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler
(Photo: Smita Chatterjee)

We came back to the hotel for brunch, after which we headed out for another session of birding on foot. We split into two groups, each covering a different location with a guide. Both the groups saw different birds which were compiled later. Some of the birds were Blue-winged Siva *(Siva cyanouroptera*), Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler (*Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*), Golden Bush Robin (*Tarsiger chrysaeus*), Striated Laughingthrush (*Garrulax striatus*), etc.

Blue-winged Siva (Photo: Smita Chatterjee)

Streaked Laughingthrush (Photo: Bala CS Dasari)

Golden Bush Robin (male) (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Golden Bush Robin (female) (Photo: Smita Chatterjee)

Scarlet Finch female (L) and male (R) (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Asian Barred Owlet (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

The next day started with a flock of vibrantly coloured Scarlet Finches (*Haematospiza sipahi*). Initially they were too far, but after some time they came closer, delighting everyone, especially the photographers. We also spotted a pair of Asian Barred Owlets (*Glaucidium cuculoides*) in their hollow.

Yellow-billed Blue Magpie holding head of White-throated Laughingthrush
(Photo: Gurukumar KR)

We attempted a trip to Chopta but had to return halfway due to the thick snow. *En route*, we spotted a Yellow-billed Blue Magpie (*Urocissa flavirostris*) holding the head of a White-throated Laughingthrush in its beak – an amazing sight – and a flock of Eurasian Jays in hot pursuit.

Another great sighting – seen only by a few of us, unfortunately – was the Collared Owlet (*Glaucidium brodiei*).

Collared Owlet (Photo: Srikanth Bhamidipati)

We returned to the hotel, cold and a little disappointed at being unable to bird properly.

The next day, on the way to Chopta, we saw an assorted group of Thrushes – Chestnut Thrush (*Turdus rubrocanus*), White-collared Blackbird (*Turdus albocinctus*), Grey-winged Blackbird (*Turdus boulboul*) – and a few other birds, including the beautiful Himalayan Bluetail (*Tarsiger rufilatus*).

Himalayan Bluetail (male) (Photo: Bala CS Dasari)

Himalayan Bluetail (female) (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Chestnut Thrush (Photo: Smita Chatterjee)

White-collared Blackbird (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Grey-winged Blackbird (Photo: Smita Chatterjee)

Bar-throated Siva (Photo: Srikanth Bhamidipati)

Chopta is famous for one of the most colourful and beautiful birds – the Himalayan Monal (*Lophophorus impejanus*). We had good sightings; some were quite far but, thanks to Anita, one was seen very near. Chopta was covered in snow and watching the contrast of the colourful Monals on this snow was amazing.

Himalayan Monal (male) (Photo: Dheeraj Chavadi)

Himalayan Monal (female) (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Golden Jackal (Photo: Srikanth Bhamidipati)

Many of us were seeing snow for the first time, and we were so excited that we started playing in the snow like kids. During our drives, we also saw mammals like the Himalayan Tahr (*Hemitragus jemlahicus*), Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus*) and Yellow-throated Martens (*Martes flavigula*) along with many colourful birds during our stay at Mandal.

Himalayan Tahr (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Yellow-throated Marten (Photo: Umesh Mani)

The weather now started to play spoilsport and it started snowing heavily. We were faced with the risk of getting stuck in Mandal if the weather turned worse. However, if the weather did not worsen, we could get a chance to see one of the Himalayan endemics like, possibly, the Western Tragopan or one of the other pheasants. But on balance, the risk seemed too much, and we decided to go back to Sattal and spend an extra day birding there.

Dog with head of monkey (Photo: Umesh Mani)

There were some Himalayan dogs around, and they seemed lively and extremely friendly. We thought they were very cute and playful, but one day, we were shocked when we found that one of them had managed to charge up to a monkey and kill it! It had grabbed the monkey some time after we had left for our bird walk in the morning, and when we returned all that remained was the monkey's head and an arm firmly held between its paws – like a trophy. We realized that however calm and mild-mannered the pets could be, they still do harbour a wild, killer instinct.

Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

We started our journey back to Sattal after a 4-day stay at Mandal. This was the day we all learned another lesson – never to leave behind one's camera or birding gear for a cup of tea! We had entered a town on the confluence of Karna Prayag. As it was a crowded place with a lot of human activity, we thought there would be very less chances of spotting birds. We all got down from the bus to have breakfast. While getting down from the bus, everyone left their long lenses and cameras, and carried only their smartphones. We went to a hotel with a small terrace facing the Alaknanda and Pindar river confluence and the mountains. As we were eating breakfast, a huge raptor suddenly swept across in front of everyone and took off into the valley. It was the White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*)! A very rare raptor, and a lifer even for the more experienced birders in the group – and we suddenly realized that none of us had a camera to capture this moment. No one could get a good picture as it flew very far, and there wasn't a single person in the group who did not regret leaving their cameras behind. After a little discussion with our guides, we decided to turn and drive back to try and locate it. We drove back around 2km – which, in those roads, meant a drive of a couple of hours! – and were fortunate enough to find this raptor again.

White-tailed Eagle (Photo: Bala CS Dasari)

It was an exhilarating sighting. We were awestruck by the knowledge of the birders in this group about birds which they had not even seen earlier and yet, knew so much about them.

Great Barbet (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Green-tailed Sunbird (female) (Photo: Smita Chatterjee)

Green-tailed Sunbird (male) (Photo: Umesh Mani)

We reached Sattal that evening. It rained all night and was still drizzling the next day. It was so nice to see everyone's enthusiasm to go birdwatching even in such weather. We saw the White-browed Scimitar Babbler *(Pomatorhinus schisticeps*), Great Barbet, female of the Green-tailed Sunbird (*Aethopyga nipalensis*), and the Rufous-bellied Niltava (*Niltava sundara*), which had such attractive colours and shone beautifully.

Rufous-bellied Niltava (male) (Photo: Dheeraj Chavadi)

We went back to the Studio for some time, and today, we did watch several birds having fun bathing in the cold water of the stream – we saw the Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, White-throated Laughingthrush and many others.

White-throated Laughingthrush (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

We also saw a huge Brown Fish Owl (*Ketupa zeylonensis*) near the lake.

Brown Fish Owl (Photo: Dheeraj Chavadi)

We learned a lot about different species and their behaviour. It was an awesome experience, mainly because we were amongst such experienced birders. We would like to thank Srikanth, Sudhir and the other members of Deccan Birders for organizing this trip. The stay and other arrangements were just perfect and the birding, absolutely blissful – so much so that we would love to go to this place again and again to observe many more species.

The group at the Studio (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

The list of birds seen during the trip is given below:

Sl No	Common Name	Scientific Name	Sl No	Common Name	Scientific Name
1	Alpine Accentor	*Prunella collaris*	16	Black Redstart	*Phoenicurus ochruros*
2	Alpine Thrush	*Zoothera mollissima*	17	Black-and-yellow Grosbeak	*Mycerobas icterioides*
3	Ashy Bulbul	*Hemixos flavala*	18	Black-chinned Babbler	*Cyanoderma pyrrhops*
4	Ashy-throated Warbler	*Phylloscopus maculipennis*	19	Black-headed Jay	*Garrulus lanceolatus*
5	Asian Barred Owlet	*Glaucidium cuculoides*	20	Black-throated Accentor	*Prunella atrogularis*
6	Asian House Martin	*Delichon dasypus*	21	Black-throated Sunbird	*Aethopyga saturata*
7	Asian Koel	*Eudynamys scolopaceus*	22	Black-throated Thrush	*Turdus atrogularis*
8	Bar-tailed Treecreeper	*Certhia himalayana*	23	Black-throated Tit	*Aegithalos concinnus*
9	Bar-throated Siva	*Siva strigula*	24	Blue Whistling Thrush	*Myophonus caeruleus*
10	Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	*Hemipus picatus*	25	Blue-fronted Redstart	*Phoenicurus frontalis*
11	Besra	*Accipiter virgatus*	26	Blue-throated Barbet	*Psilopogon asiaticus*
12	Black Bulbul	*Hypsipetes leucocephalus*	27	Blue-winged Minla	*Actinodura cyanouroptera*
13	Black Drongo	*Dicrurus macrocercus*	28	Bronzed Drongo	*Dicrurus aeneus*
14	Black Francolin	*Francolinus francolinus*	29	Brown Dipper	*Cinclus pallasii*
15	Black Kite	*Milvus migrans*	30	Brown Fish Owl	*Ketupa zeylonensis*

Sl No	Common Name	Scientific Name	Sl No	Common Name	Scientific Name
31	Brown-fronted Woodpecker	*Dendrocoptes auriceps*	81	Himalayan Griffon	*Gyps himalayensis*
32	Buff-barred Warbler	*Phylloscopus pulcher*	82	Himalayan Monal	*Lophophorus impejanus*
33	Cattle Egret	*Bubulcus ibis*	83	Himalayan Rubythroat	*Calliope pectoralis*
34	Chestnut Thrush	*Turdus rubrocanus*	84	Himalayan Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos himalayensis*
35	Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	*Sitta cinnamoventris*	85	House Crow	*Corvus splendens*
36	Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush	*Monticola rufiventris*	86	House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*
37	Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush	*Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*	87	Indian Golden Oriole	*Oriolus kundoo*
38	Chestnut-eared Bunting	*Emberiza fucata*	88	Indian Robin	*Copsychus fulicatus*
39	Chestnut-headed Tesia	*Cettia castaneocoronata*	89	Jungle Babbler	*Turdoides striata*
40	Chestnut-tailed Starling	*Sturnia malabarica*	90	Kalij Pheasant	*Lophura leucomelanos*
41	Cinereous Tit	*Parus cinereus*	91	Large-billed Crow	*Corvus macrorhynchos*
42	Citrine Wagtail	*Motacilla citreola*	92	Lemon-rumped Warbler	*Phylloscopus chloronotus*
43	Collared Owlet	*Glaucidium brodiei*	93	Lesser Whitethroat	*Sylvia curruca*
44	Collared Scops Owl	*Otus lettia*	94	Lesser Yellownape	*Picus chlorolophus*
45	Common Green Magpie	*Cissa chinensis*	95	Little Cormorant	*Microcarbo niger*
46	Common Kingfisher	*Alcedo atthis*	96	Little Forktail	*Enicurus scouleri*
47	Common Myna	*Acridotheres tristis*	97	Little Swift	*Apus affinis*
48	Common Rosefinch	*Carpodacus erythrinus*	98	Long-billed Thrush	*Zoothera monticola*
49	Common Tailorbird	*Orthotomus sutorius*	99	Long-tailed Shrike	*Lanius schach*
50	Crested Kingfisher	*Megaceryle lugubris*	100	Long-tailed Thrush	*Zoothera dixoni*
51	Crested Serpent Eagle	*Spilornis cheela*	101	Maroon Oriole	*Oriolus traillii*
52	Dark-sided Thrush	*Zoothera marginata*	102	Mistle Thrush	*Turdus viscivorus*
53	Eurasian Collared Dove	*Streptopelia decaocto*	103	Mountain Bulbul	*Ixos mcclellandii*
54	Eurasian Jay	*Garrulus glandarius*	104	Mountain Hawk Eagle	*Nisaetus nipalensis*
55	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	*Accipiter nisus*	105	Nepal House Martin	*Delichon nipalense*
56	Eurasian Wren	*Troglodytes troglodytes*	106	Nepal Wren-babbler	*Pnoepyga immaculata*
57	Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	*Dicaeum ignipectus*	107	Olive-backed Pipit	*Anthus hodgsoni*
58	Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos macei*	108	Orange-bellied Leafbird	*Chloropsis hardwickii*
59	Golden Bush Robin	*Tarsiger chrysaeus*	109	Oriental Magpie Robin	*Copsychus saularis*
60	Great Barbet	*Psilopogon virens*	110	Oriental Turtle Dove	*Streptopelia orientalis*
61	Greater Flameback	*Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus*	111	Oriental White-eye	*Zosterops palpebrosus*
62	Greater Yellownape	*Chrysophlegma flavinucha*	112	Pale Sand Martin	*Riparia diluta*
63	Green-backed Tit	*Parus monticolus*	113	Pink-browed Rosefinch	*Carpodacus rodochroa*
64	Green-tailed Sunbird	*Aethopyga nipalensis*	114	Plumbeous Redstart	*Phoenicurus fuliginosus*
65	Grey Bushchat	*Saxicola ferreus*	115	Plum-headed Parakeet	*Psittacula cyanocephala*
66	Grey Treepie	*Dendrocitta formosae*	116	Red Junglefowl	*Gallus gallus*
67	Grey Wagtail	*Motacilla cinerea*	117	Red-billed Blue Magpie	*Urocissa erythroryncha*
68	Grey-bellied Cuckoo	*Cacomantis passerinus*	118	Red-billed Leiothrix	*Leiothrix lutea*
69	Grey-breasted Prinia	*Prinia hodgsonii*	119	Red-rumped Swallow	*Cecropis daurica*
70	Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	*Yungipicus canicapillus*	120	Red-vented Bulbul	*Pycnonotus cafer*
71	Grey-crowned Prinia	*Prinia cinereocapilla*	121	Red-wattled Lapwing	*Vanellus indicus*
72	Grey-headed Woodpecker	*Picus canus*	122	Rock Bunting	*Emberiza cia*
73	Grey-hooded Warbler	*Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*	123	Rock Pigeon	*Columba livia*
74	Grey-winged Blackbird	*Turdus boulboul*	124	Rufous Sibia	*Heterophasia capistrata*
75	Hill Partridge	*Arborophila torqueola*	125	Rufous Treepie	*Dendrocitta vagabunda*
76	Himalayan Black-lored Tit	*Machlolophus xanthogenys*	126	Rufous-bellied Niltava	*Niltava sundara*
77	Himalayan Bluetail	*Tarsiger rufilatus*	127	Rufous-bellied Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos hyperythrus*
78	Himalayan Bulbul	*Pycnonotus leucogenys*	128	Rufous-breasted Accentor	*Prunella strophiata*
79	Himalayan Buzzard	*Buteo refectus*	129	Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush	*Ianthocincla rufogularis*
80	Himalayan Flameback	*Dinopium shorii*	130	Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher	*Ficedula strophiata*

Sl No	Common Name	Scientific Name	Sl No	Common Name	Scientific Name
131	Russet Sparrow	*Passer cinnamomeus*	153	Variegated Laughingthrush	*Trochalopteron variegatum*
132	Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler	*Megapomatorhinus erythrogenys*	154	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	*Sitta frontalis*
133	Rusty-flanked Treecreeper	*Certhia nipalensis*	155	Verditer Flycatcher	*Eumyias thalassinus*
134	Scaly Thrush	*Zoothera dauma*	156	Wallcreeper	*Tichodroma muraria*
135	Scaly-bellied Woodpecker	*Picus squamatus*	157	Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon	*Treron sphenurus*
136	Scaly-breasted Wren-babbler	*Pnoepyga albiventer*	158	Whiskered Yuhina	*Yuhina flavicollis*
137	Scarlet Finch	*Carpodacus sipahi*	159	Whistler's Warbler	*Phylloscopus whistleri*
138	Siberian Stonechat	*Saxicola maurus*	160	White-browed Fulvetta	*Fulvetta vinipectus*
139	Slaty-backed Forktail	*Enicurus schistaceus*	161	White-browed Shrike-babbler	*Pteruthius ripleyi*
140	Slaty-blue Flycatcher	*Ficedula tricolor*	162	White-capped Redstart	*Phoenicurus leucocephalus*
141	Slaty-headed Parakeet	*Psittacula himalayana*	163	White-collared Blackbird	*Turdus albocinctus*
142	Snow Pigeon	*Columba leuconota*	164	White-crested Laughingthrush	*Garrulax leucolophus*
143	Speckled Piculet	*Picumnus innominatus*	165	White-rumped Munia	*Lonchura striata*
144	Speckled Wood Pigeon	*Columba hodgsonii*	166	White-rumped Needletail	*Zoonavena sylvatica*
145	Spotted Dove	*Streptopelia chinensis*	167	White-tailed Eagle	*Haliaeetus albicilla*
146	Spotted Forktail	*Enicurus maculatus*	168	White-tailed Nuthatch	*Sitta himalayensis*
147	Spot-winged Rosefinch	*Carpodacus rodopeplus*	169	White-throated Fantail	*Rhipidura albicollis*
148	Steppe Eagle	*Aquila nipalensis*	170	White-throated Kingfisher	*Halcyon smyrnensis*
149	Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler	*Pomatorhinus ruficollis*	171	White-throated Laughingthrush	*Ianthocincla albogularis*
150	Streaked Laughingthrush	*Trochalopteron lineatum*	172	Yellow-bellied Fantail	*Chelidorhynx hypoxanthus*
151	Striated Laughingthrush	*Grammatoptila striata*	173	Yellow-billed Blue Magpie	*Urocissa flavirostris*
152	Stripe-throated Yuhina	*Yuhina gularis*	174	Yellow-browed Tit	*Sylviparus modestus*

Some other photos taken during the trip:

Whiskered Yuhina (Photo: Dheeraj Chavadi)

Speckled Piculet (Photo: Bala CS Dasari)

Blue Whistling Thrush (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Stripe-throated Yuhina (Photo: Smita Chatterjee)

Plain-backed Thrush (Photo: Sudhir K Moorti)

Black-throated Accentor (Photo: Srikanth Bhamidipati)

Rock Bunting (Photo: Smita Chatterjee)

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike
(Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Rufous-bellied Woodpecker
(Photo: Dheeraj Chavadi)

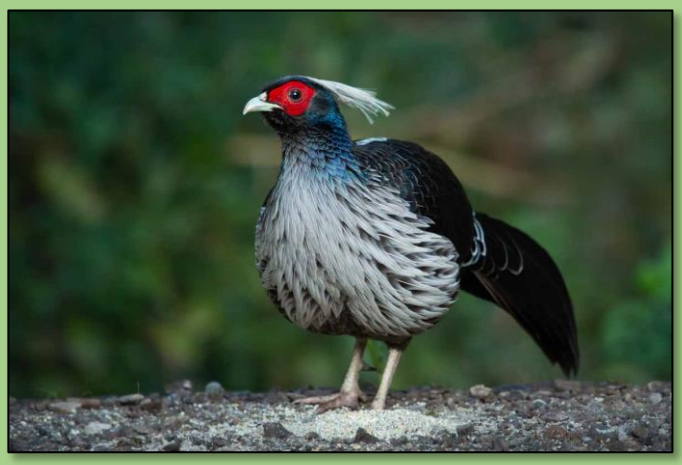
Long-billed Thrush (Photo: Bala CS Dasari)

Lesser Yellownape (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Spangled Drongo
(Photo: Smita Chatterjee)

Black-throated Thrush (Photo: Srikanth Bhamidipati)

Himalayan Monal (male) (Photo: Gurukumar KR)



Kalij Pheasant (male) (Photo: Bala CS Dasari)

Kalij Pheasant (female) (Photo: Smita Chatterjee)

Red-billed Leiothrix (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Grey Treepie (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Chestnut-headed Tesia (Photo: Smita Chatterjee)

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (Photo: Bala CS Dasari)

Red-billed Blue Magpie
(Photo: Umesh Mani)

Mountain Bulbul
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Asian Barred Owlet
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Alpine Accentor
(Photo: Dheeraj Chavadi)

Red-vented Bulbul
(Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Chestnut-eared Bunting
(Photo: Umesh Mani)

Siberian Stonechat (male)
(Photo: Smita Chatterjee)

Siberian Stonechat (female)
(Photo: Srikanth Bhamidipati)

Yellow-breasted Greenfinch
(Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Spot-winged Rosefinch (male) (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Plumbeous Water Redstart (female) (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Red Junglefowl (male) (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Red Junglefowl (female) (Photo: Smita Chatterjee)

Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush (Photo: Bala CS Dasari)

Slaty-backed Forktail (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

White-capped Water Redstart (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Wallcreeper (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Eurasian Sparrowhawk
(Photo: Umesh Mani)

Black Francolin
(Photo: Srikanth Bhamidipati)

Lemon-rumped Warbler
(Photo: Dheeraj Chavadi)

Black-throated Tit
(Photo: Umesh Mani)

Rufous-bellied Niltava (female)
(Photo: Umesh Mani)

Rusty-flanked Treecreeper
(Photo: Dheeraj Chavadi)

Maroon Oriole
(Photo: Dheeraj Chavadi)

A scene at Sattal
(Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Variegated Laughingthrush
(Photo: Dheeraj Chavadi)

Slaty-blue Flycatcher (Photo: Srikanth Bhamidipati)

Crested Kingfisher (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Cinereous Tit (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Scarlet Finch (male) (Photo: Srikanth Bhamidipati)

Spotted Forktail (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Snow Pigeon (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Black-chinned Babbler (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Whistler's Warbler (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Kalij Pheasant female (L) & male (R) (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Orange-bellied Leafbird (Photo: Smita Chatterjee)

Pink-browed Rosefinch (male) (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

A scene at snowbound Chopta (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Oriental Turtle Dove (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Common Kingfisher (Photo: Gurukumar KR)

Long-tailed Shrike (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Oriental White-eye (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Pink-browed Rosefinch (female)
(Photo: Umesh Mani)

Grey Bushchat
(Photo: Srikanth Bhamidipati)

Yellow-billed Blue Magpie
(Photo: Bala CS Dasari)

White-throated Fantail
(Photo: Dheeraj Chavadi)

Crested Serpent Eagle
(Photo: Umesh Mani)

Large-billed Crow
(Photo: Umesh Mani)

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